GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4195
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2002
INEQUALITIES IN INCOME
GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 35% of the people of India including nearly about half of SCs and STs comprising one fourth of India`s population live `Below Poverty Line` while about 90% of the total wealth of the Nation` and most of the means of production are concentrated in the hands of minority privileged class of people; and

(b) if so, indicate the action taken to minimize the inequalities income as envisaged under Article 38 to secure and promote welfare of the people and to ensure that the ownership and control of material resources of the country are so distributed as best to subserve the common good and to secure that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment in the field of trade, commerce and industry as enshrined under Article 39

(b) and (

(c) of the Constitution?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) & (b) : No, Sir. The population `Below Poverty Line` estimated for the year 1999-2000 by the Planning Commission is 27.09%for rural and 26.10% for urban areas.

However, a number of measures have been undertaken through employment and income generating programmes & assets building, besides accelerating economic growth with a view to reduce income inequality. The recent measures announced in the Exim Policy like helping the clusters where SSI sector is dominant will help generation of employment.The SEZ policy, which will lead to generation of economic activity and employment in the SEZ & hinterland and in the Agri Export Zones, are some such examples in the Export Sector.